

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



American Redstart



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Katy Kindig

September Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Saturday September 5

10am Summer Blowout! Meet at the Nature Center for a one hour hike to the Beach House Blowout and back. Great view of both Lake Michigan and the dune forests along the way! Join us! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

4pm Turtle Time! Join the Park Interpreter in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun and educational look at the terrapins of the Indiana Dunes. Afterwards, we'll put them down and watch them crawl. KK

7:30pm Nature Movie Night!! Grab the popcorn (and S'mores fixin's) and join us for an evening of short movies at the Campground Shelter. We'll be showing nature films on the big screen. We'll also have a small fire in the back for some marshmallow cooking. Total time about 45 minutes. BB

Sunday September 6

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Saturday, September 5, for more details. KK

3pm Nature Center Crafts. Bring your friends and take part in some Labor Day crafts at the Nature Center this afternoon! We'll be making something you can take home to remember your visit to the Indiana Dunes State Park. DG

7pm Campground Critters! Meet the Interpreter at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for an evening of critter fun. We'll explore the different dune critters that you'll be camping with this Labor Day weekend. Great fun for the kids! KK

Monday September 7 (Labor Day!)

10am Care and Feeding of Indiana Dunes State Park.

Maintaining one of the most ecologically rich parks in the state, with one of the highest visitation is no small chore! This special Lake Michigan Coastal Program Coast Week activity will highlight the work that is done to preserve the park. Meet outside the Nature Center for this hour stroll. BB

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. KK

2pm Labor Day Beach Prize Time! Watch for the Park Interpreter on the Beach with bags. Any kid (or adult) who helps clean the beach gets a free prize from the prize bucket! Great way to end the beach season and leave it clean for next year. DG, KK

Friday September 11

3pm The Natural Heritage of Indiana! Join us for a special presentation of this amazing 1 hour documentary that explores "a celebration of Indiana's natural heritage." It was produced in 2008 by WFYI in Indianapolis. Join us!



Saturday September 12

History Comes Alive Weekend!

Join us for special activities all weekend!

9am-8pm Voyageurs Encampment. Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they enact the early French fur traders of the area.

9:30am INShape Walk. Join us at the Pavilion for a 2-mile fitness walk along the beach, one of more than 20 happening simultaneously around the state. Free park passes for the DNR INShape Day are available at www.in.gov/INShape. DG

10am Dunes History Hike. Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! Bring your beaver pelt, or borrow one of ours. KK, DLG

11am-3pm Native American Trades! Make your way to the Nature Center for a look at the early Native American way of life. Special re-enactors will show off crafts, trade items, and more. Come check them out!

2pm Tragedy Beneath the Waves. Gather in the Nature Auditorium for a short video and program on the shipwrecks of Indiana Dunes. Afterwards we'll walk outside and see some relics from these massive ships, and offer a car pool to the Beach to see where some shipwrecks are! BB

7pm Nature Stories and Tall Tales! Bring a blanket or lawnchair to the Main Beach for an evening of stories by the waves. We'll share an evening of historic stories by the campfire. In case of inclement weather, we'll meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113). BB

Sunday September 13

9am-2pm Voyageurs Encampment. Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they re-enact the fur-trading era.

10am Voyageur's Hike. Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago. BB

2pm Leave it to Beaver. Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to investigate the dune beaver family. We'll hike out to their "gigantic" lodge and check out some recent activity. Bring the family! KK

Friday September 18

6pm Sunset Climb. Join the Park Interpreter for a moderate climb to see Indiana's best sunset over Indiana's highest sand dune! We'll meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) from where we'll make our way up to (hopefully) view a magnificent sunset, then return the way we came. Bring the family. DG

Saturday September 19

9:30am Fall Birding. Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a morning search of the migrating fall warblers, thrushes, and vireos. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. Join us! BB

2pm A Prickly Pear Program! Find your way to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the real native cacti of the dunes... the prickly pear! We'll look at what makes it so special, and even try some food dishes that can be made from this very unique dunes treat. Bring your appetite and join us! BB

Sunday September 20

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

11am The Natural Heritage of Indiana! Join us for a special presentation of this amazing 1 hour documentary that explores "a celebration of Indiana's natural heritage." It was produced in 2008 by WFYI in Indianapolis. Join us!

2pm High-tech Treasure Hunt! Join us for a treasure hunt, with a techno-twist! Learn the hobby of GPS use and geocaching as we search out some hidden boxes. Meet outside the Nature Center. Prizes for the kids! BB

Saturday September 26

10am September Dunes Summit Hike. Join us at the Campground Gate for a 1 ½ hour hike to the highest dune in Indiana. We'll explore Mt. Tom and a special place called Ecology Cove before ending back at the Nature Center. Lace up your hiking shoes and join us! KK

2pm Mapping the Dunes Through Time. Using new technology, join us in the Nature Center Auditorium and explore how the dunes have changed as we overlay historical maps for a comparison to what we see today. Great program for the history buffs. DG

7pm Campfire Tonight! Join the Naturalists for an evening of stories, games, and song. Prizes for the little ones, and general fun for everyone! Meet at the Campground Shelter (near site 113). Kids, please

bring a parent if you are under 12. Bring marshmallows for roasting afterwards. Join us! DG, DLG

Sunday September 27

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

11am Nature Crafts! Meet guest interpreter Deanna for a morning of recycled craft fun. We'll have some make it, take it crafts you can take home or back to the campsite. Meet on the Nature Center Front Deck! DLG

2pm Worms Ate my Lunch! Come feed our worms lunch this morning, as David and Deanna show off vermicomposting and other ways you can green your life! Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. DG, DLG

Indiana Audubon Society Fall Festival in the Dunes!

October 2-4, 2009

Join other Hoosier birders for a weekend of fall birding activities. Special hikes, programs, and keynote speaker Dr. Kenneth Brock will highlight bird populations in the State of Indiana. A full agenda of activities is posted at www.indianaaudubon.org. Visit the Nature Center or website to register today!